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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a web-fed rotary printing machine having a plurality of cylinders rolling on one another, each cylinder is driven by a respective drive motor, and a control device synchronizes the motors to run at the same speed. The control device has stored therein a control program which can be activated in the event of a web break. The control program has an emergency stop ramp which brakes the motors to a standstill by jerked stop, preferably within five revolutions, the program driving the motors along the stop ramp in the event of a web break.